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Cover: Black-headed Gull at Hunt Valley, MD. Photo by Mikey Lutmerding, March 9, 2013.



MARYLAND'S 2012–13 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

CHANDLER S. ROBBINS

Following last year's warm and snow-less winter, this winter's Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) provided unusual excitement for the record number of participants. Every Maryland count turned up unexpected species as well as exceptional numbers of individuals of the expected species. For the first time in 32 years we asked the compilers of the 24 counts that are centered in Maryland to send us copies of their 2012–13 counts together with coverage details and names of observers. The response was overwhelming; every one responded promptly, provided the necessary information and responded to queries. Thus, for the first time in decades, you can compare the results of the count(s) you were on with those from other parts of Maryland months before they will be available through the new Audubon Christmas Count website. Remarkably, half the Maryland counts equaled or broke 100 species this year.

Although waterfowl numbers were not unusually high this winter, the species were well distributed because open water was available in every CBC 7½-mile circle. Even Garrett County observers found 16 species of waterfowl plus loons, grebes, and a cormorant. Ring-necked Ducks were found in every circle except Crisfield, Hooded Mergansers in 21 of the 24 counts, and Ruddy Ducks in all but Washington and Allegany counties. Mute Swans are still restricted to tidewater except for a single bird at Seneca. A Gray Partridge at Chesterville was not considered unusual because they as well as Ring-necked Pheasants are released locally for hunting; but the increase in Wild Turkeys (403 birds, 15 circles) is extraordinary.

Good numbers of Black Vultures, counts of more than 100 in almost half the circles, show the continued spread of this species, and the Turkey Vulture total reached a new winter high of 6109. Bald Eagles were found in every circle except Allegany County, with an impressive total of 1474 birds. There were 18 Merlins and 21 Peregrines.

As expected, Ocean City stole the show with lingering or wintering shorebirds, being the only count to report Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, oystercatchers, willets, turnstones, Least Sandpipers, and dowitchers. They also discovered 2 Dovekies and 3 Razorbills.

Hummingbirds were detected on an incredible one-quarter of the Maryland CBCs, 1 Ruby-throat, 5 Rufous, and 2 *Selasphorus* sp. and, remarkably, 2 were not in the vicinity of feeders. The nocturnal counters heard 700 owls of seven species, dominated by 319 Great Horneds and 268 Screech-Owls. Pileated (683) and Red-bellied (3068) Woodpeckers were found in all circles, but the Red-headed (75) was restricted to seven. The sapsucker, often silent in winter, was detected in every county except Garrett.

Insectivorous Phoebe surprised counters on 16 of the 24 counts, and it was a great winter for Blue Jays (7391). Common Ravens continue to expand eastward. They have not reached Baltimore yet, but were found in all circles to the west of there.

As would be expected, many of the highest counts of common species came from Seneca, the circle with the most participants working in the most parties: Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-bellied, Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers, sapsucker, Blue Jay, titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, both kinglets, bluebird, Red-wing, and Purple Finch. However, Bowie, the count with the largest number of party-hours on foot, had the highest totals for Cooper's Hawk (tie), Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Monk Parakeet, Hairy Woodpecker, flicker, American Crow, Winter Wren, towhee, both crossbills, Lincoln's Sparrow (tie), White-throat, junco, and Cardinal.

To get an idea of which species have been increasing and which have been declining over the years, I compared the 2012–13 results with those from 1976–77 (a cold fall and early-winter season) and 1980–81 (another cold early-winter season), the most recent ones that were published in full in Maryland Birdlife. Most of the areas were the same ones as this season, but the total number of counts was 21 in the first two years and 24 this year. In order to compensate for the increase in effort over the years I divided the number of birds of each species by the number of party-miles covered on foot and multiplied by ten to show the equivalent of what one person (you) would have counted in ten hours on foot. The numbers are arranged from the earliest of these three years to the most recent.

Species with winter numbers increasing in Maryland: Wood Duck, 0.2, 3, 10; Gadwall, 0.6, 0.2, 12; Ring-necked Duck, 10, 1, 24; Hooded Merganser, 0.5, 0.9, 14; Turkey, 0.2, 0.2, 2; Black Vulture, 1.5, 2, 15; Cooper's Hawk, 0.2, 0.2, 1; Bald Eagle, 0.2, 0.3, 8; Merlin, 0, 0, 0.1; Peregrine Falcon, 0, 0, 0.1; Common Loon, 0.2, 0.1, 2; Double-crested Cormorant, 0, 0, 9; Great Black-backed Gull, 7, 13, 12; Forster's Tern, 0, 0, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 11, 14, 17; Sapsucker, 2, 1, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 1, 1, 4; Phoebe, 0.2, 0.1, 0.3; Blue Jay, 28, 46, 40; Common Raven, 0.1, 0.1, 0.3; Fish Crow, 9, 10, 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1, 2, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 0.9, 0.4, 1; Winter Wren, 2, 1, 4; Carolina Wren, 21, 11, 24; Catbird, 0.4, 0.3, 0.7; Eastern Bluebird, 6, 6, 31; Chipping Sparrow, 0.1, 0.3, 5; Fox Sparrow, 0.4, 0.5, 2;

Species with winter numbers declining in Maryland: Canada Goose, 1255, 1597, 1142; Brant, 49, 0.3, 0.0; Mute Swan, 0.5, 0.7, 0.2; Mallard, 113, 205, 151; Black Duck, 45, 66, 32; Bobwhite, 9, 0.1, 0.2; Kestrel, 4, 4, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 0.5, 0.7, 0; Woodcock, 0.4, 0.2, 0.3; Rock Dove, 68, 59, 29; Starling, 625, 580, 389; Lapland Longspur, 0.3, 0, 0.1; Snow Bunting, 1, 0, 0.1; Myrtle Warbler, 90, 25, 24; Tree Sparrow, 8, 6, 0.6; Cardinal, 55, 65, 43; Red-winged Blackbird, 756, 1794, 742; Meadowlark, 31, 16, 3; Purple Finch, 3, 0.4, 0.4; House Finch, 10, 24, 15; House Sparrow, 63, 74, 15.

Species counts that were considered unusually high are shown in boldface type in the tables.

Thanks to all the participants, most especially those in the Southern Dorchester County and Crisfield circles who persisted in spite of deplorable weather conditions, and special thanks to all the compilers who worked so hard to assemble and check the results.

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TABLE 1. INLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013

	<u>OAKLAND</u>	<u>ALLEGANY</u>	<u>WASH. COUNTY</u>	<u>CATOCTIN</u>	<u>SUGAR- LOAF</u>
DATE	15-Dec	18-Dec	30-Dec	15-Dec	30-Dec
HOURS	4:30a– 6:00p	7:30a– 4:30p	7:30a– 4:00p	5:15a– 4:30p	5:00a– 4:45p
SKY	Cloudy	pc	Cloudy	pc	pc
TEMPERATURE (° F.)	28–48	30–52	31–35	25–46	32–38
WIND (mph)	0–10	2–2.5	15–35	Light	10–30
GROUND	Bare	Bare	Bare	Bare	Bare
Greater White-fronted Goose					1
Snow Goose					7
Blue Goose					
Cackling Goose					1
Canada Goose	1,657	160	678		4,018
Tundra Swan	5	1	35		75
Mute Swan					
Wood Duck			4		cw
Gadwall	37				59
Eurasian Wigeon					
American Wigeon	20				2
American Black Duck	40		14	2	75
Mallard	469	89		86	229
Black x Mallard					6
Northern Pintail	1				
Northern Shoveler			1		
Green-winged Teal					29
Redhead					
Canvasback					3
Ring-necked Duck	128	3	1	22	120
Greater Scaup	2				
Lesser Scaup	41				
Scaup sp.					1
Bufflehead	71				70
Common Goldeneye	1				
Hooded Merganser	206	11			26
Common Merganser	8		1		34
Red-breasted Merganser	2				
Ruddy Duck	358			1	28
Ruffed Grouse	2				
Wild Turkey	62		36		28
Gray Partridge					
Ring-neck Pheasant					
Northern Bobwhite					
Common Loon	6				

TABLE 1. INLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

<u>SENECA</u>	<u>TRIA- DELPHIA</u>	<u>LOCH RAVEN</u>	<u>ROCK RUN</u>	<u>BOWIE</u>	<u>ELKTON</u>	<u>CHESTER- VILLE</u>
16-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec	5-Jan	1-Jan	16-Dec	23-Dec
6:15a- 5:00p	5:00a- 5:30p	7:00a- 4:30p	2:15p- 6:30p	7:00a- 3:30p	4:30a-	4:00a- 5:15p
Cloudy 40-43 0-5 Bare	pc 28-53 0-10 Bare	Cloudy 40-43 0-5 Bare	pc 25-41 0-5 Bare	Cloudy 37-42 0-5 Bare	Cloudy 32-50 Calm Bare	pc 30-46 0-6 Bare
cw				1	519	27,252
	6		2	3	2	18
2,691	5,140	6,844	16,458	16,044	5,054	5
						15,729
4		2	2,402	5	20	235
1						
	2	1	1	42	1	5
6	2	36	19	46	224	120
		1				
12	3	236		13		25
47	61	62	133	103	59	496
450	174	171	654	858	191	794
		2	6	3		
3				1		
10	1		1		2	24
20	4			8		76
		13				
			54			
194	55	1,247	16	455	91	543
			1			
6		10	97		8	
			9			
117	3	87	209	1	27	4
		21	97	4		2
55	43	154	91	134	7	6
28	21		461	1	2	6
8	11	8	378	80	548	2
	3					
						1
						2
						34
		1				

TABLE 1. INLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

	<u>OAKLAND</u>	<u>ALLEGANY</u>	<u>WASH. COUNTY</u>	<u>CATOCTIN</u>	<u>SUGAR- LOAF</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	13	4			21
Horned Grebe	cw				
Double-crested Cormorant	1				
Great Blue Heron	1	5	2	12	31
Great Egret					
Black-crowned Night-Heron					
Black Vulture			32	12	238
Turkey Vulture	cw		41	63	385
Bald Eagle	3		2	7	15
Northern Harrier	cw			2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1		4
Cooper's Hawk	cw	4	1	10	11
Accipiter sp.	1				2
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	1	2	18	40
Red-tailed Hawk	17	7	14	107	74
American Kestrel	4	1	6	29	17
Merlin					1
Peregrine Falcon					1
American Coot	465				24
Virginia Rail					
Sora					
Sandhill Crane					
Killdeer	3	10	3	22	4
Greater Yellowlegs				1	
Common Snipe					2
American Woodcock					
Black-headed Gull					
Bonaparte's Gull					
Ring-billed Gull		cw			50
Herring Gull					
Lesser Black-backed Gull					
Great Black-backed Gull					
Gull sp.			1		
Rock Pigeon	104	203	185	293	209
Mourning Dove	59	21	99	284	221
Monk Parakeet					
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	1		7	1
Great Horned Owl	1			5	
Barred Owl	4		1	3	6
Short-eared Owl					
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1				
Rufous Hummingbird					
Belted Kingfisher	8	3	8	8	14
Red-headed Woodpecker				4	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	10	35	142	279

TABLE 1. INLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

<u>SENECA</u>	<u>TRIA- DELPHIA</u>	<u>LOCH RAVEN</u>	<u>ROCK RUN</u>	<u>BOWIE</u>	<u>ELKTON</u>	<u>CHESTER- VILLE</u>
20	14	165	30	17	4	9
	1	16				
		4	28	5	15	8
71	19	25	120	25	31	88
1						
			1			
183	121	66	311	157	47	217
424	171	190	129	115	230	488
11	5	30	145	20	249	67
3	2	1	7	7	2	10
11	9	7	4	12	4	10
7	14	13	5	16	9	14
1		1				
100	59	42	32	49	11	17
55	49	42	55	53	15	79
9	3	6	3	10	3	13
1		2		1		1
	1	2	1	2		2
			37	17	154	
					2	6
						2
				2		
19		9	18	83	30	115
2	2	11	1	17		
				7	1	1
		1				
			5			1
835	83	396	5,075	822	1,995	252
10	4	19	391	71	32	19
			1			1
			219		556	1
111	1		110	24		
567	616	353	392	760	48	251
479	599	412	171	1,067	46	408
				1		
1	12	4	6	1	11	22
1	7	6	11	5	7	36
7	5	3	3	11	4	10
cw	1					
			2			
	1		1			
32	21	36	25	36	12	15
45				cw		
585	233	176	106	397	62	178

TABLE 1. INLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

	<u>OAKLAND</u>	<u>ALLEGANY</u>	<u>WASH. COUNTY</u>	<u>CATOCTIN</u>	<u>SUGAR- LOAF</u>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2	10	12	32
Downy Woodpecker	49	19	29	92	164
Hairy Woodpecker	18	3	6	16	17
Northern Flicker	1	6	12	57	129
Pileated Woodpecker	9	5	11	27	56
Eastern Phoebe		1	1		8
Blue Jay	69	57	50	244	356
American Crow	888	59	207	235	2,847
Fish Crow		1			59
Crow sp.					2,220
Common Raven	12	3	2	19	7
Horned Lark	20		49	15	371
Black-capped Chickadee	232	53			1
Carolina Chickadee			110	182	522
Tufted Titmouse	84	49	72	94	337
Red-breasted Nuthatch	31	2	2	10	16
White-breasted Nuthatch	84	46	28	102	180
Brown Creeper	11	3	8	17	53
Carolina Wren	10	38	57	169	269
House Wren					cw
Winter Wren	1	2	3	5	37
Marsh Wren					
Gold-crowned Kinglet	16	21	28	42	119
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		1	2	2	13
Eastern Bluebird		51	87	211	317
Hermit Thrush		3		2	14
American Robin	1	26	103	33	263
Gray Catbird	1				3
Northern Mockingbird	2	15	20	119	116
Brown Thrasher					
European Starling	742	344	1,468	3,054	4,546
American Pipit		15	30	173	131
Cedar Waxwing			23	25	258
Lapland Longspur					12
Snow Bunting					6
Northern Parula					
Myrtle Warbler		7	2	49	41
Pine Warbler					
Palm Warbler					
Common Yellowthroat	1				
Eastern Towhee	2	3		4	19
AmericanTree Sparrow	44			4	17
Chipping Sparrow			2		1
Field Sparrow		5	1	8	34
Vesper Sparrow					

TABLE 1. INLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

<u>SENECA</u>	<u>TRIA- DELPHIA</u>	<u>LOCH RAVEN</u>	<u>ROCK RUN</u>	<u>BOWIE</u>	<u>ELKTON</u>	<u>CHESTER- VILLE</u>
104	18	21	25	43	9	22
383	193	178	118	333	58	83
59	33	47	23	74	14	22
266	144	120	81	414	58	107
107	53	39	24	86	11	20
8	5	1	1	4	1	
1,100	665	170	151	1,063	143	404
1,504	2,652	5,091	1,006	18,896	395	126
434	502	95	126	251	89	
1,735	1,655			810		
3	4					
35	21		16		2	307
	4		2			
1,084	582	549	359	875	169	306
680	347	340	220	576	99	236
17	44	45	48	91	2	31
459	224	209	112	269	61	116
106	21	37	27	34	22	17
629	382	287	209	92	110	214
1	2	4	cw	1		
99	53	34	44	114	12	36
						3
299	54	86	106	115	41	35
114	3	5	6	18	3	30
462	381	352	335	238	70	300
16	15	6	13	57	4	31
1,208	4,617	378	324	1,189	221	372
2	3	2	1	4	3	2
208	140	115	126	205	78	176
	3	1	1	20	1	6
6,449	3,003	3,657	1,329	5,525	1,333	5,937
1				64		608
532	246	92	2	39	85	110
cw			1			2
			1			
165	17	21	21	62	33	51
	1			1		
2						1
		1				
72	82	41	35	133	10	46
9	5	1	19	7	3	
4	9	50	8	27		3
55	95	31	59	116	14	121
	1					

TABLE 1. INLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

	<u>OAKLAND</u>	<u>ALLEGANY</u>	<u>WASH. COUNTY</u>	<u>CATOCTIN</u>	<u>SUGAR- LOAF</u>
Savannah Sparrow			1	25	14
Fox Sparrow		1	1	3	12
Song Sparrow	14	30	24	168	340
Lincoln's Sparrow					
Swamp Sparrow	1			4	33
White-throated Sparrow	4	59	304	284	951
White-crowned Sparrow		4	1	134	85
Dark-eyed Junco	135	229	798	456	1,984
Summer Tanager					
Northern Cardinal	48	51	147	226	427
Red-winged Blackbird				146	357
Eastern Meadowlark			25	4	3
Rusty Blackbird				2	2
Common Grackle				51	21
Brown-headed Cowbird			287	55	31
Blackbird sp.					102
Purple Finch	2		2		2
House Finch	23	11	43	93	100
Common Redpoll					
Red Crossbill	6				
White-winged Crossbill	23				
Pine Siskin	1				2
American Goldfinch	16	34	84	99	177
House Sparrow	87	93	147	216	136
Total species	72	55	66	70	95
Total individuals	6,510	1,886	5,490	9,087	24,845
Observers	17	5	16	19	60
Parties	10	4	12	8	33
Hours on foot	40.25	7.5	5	19	99.5
Hours by car	39	19	14	46.5	62.25
Total hours	79.25	26.5	19	65.5	161.75
Miles on foot	28.5	7.5	3	11	83.25
Miles by car	429.75	210	120	430	435
Total miles	458.25	217.5	123	441	518
Feeder hours	6.25	0	3	0	11.75
Owling hours	2.8	0	0	4.5	4
Owling miles	11	0	0	30	21.25

TABLE 1. INLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

<u>SENECA</u>	<u>TRIA- DELPHIA</u>	<u>LOCH RAVEN</u>	<u>ROCK RUN</u>	<u>BOWIE</u>	<u>ELKTON</u>	<u>CHESTER- VILLE</u>
13	15	7	16	34	3	78
18	60	9	3	45	6	13
539	784	448	464	889	144	746
				1	1	
70	47	19	21	145	48	67
1,967	2,107	1,404	1,022	2,755	677	2,123
20	13	10	18	21	2	117
1,515	1,378	1,494	701	2,640	864	2,040
	1					
680	571	476	349	849	193	524
229	457	194	1342	912	3401	31,964
1				11		
190			1	40		46
8	853	59	5,983	267	1,091	2,875
21	13	2	102	30	376	252
145	513			12		25,500
24			4	8	3	2
100	134	102	120	272	58	418
1						
	25		2	26		9
			6	51		2
1	8	2	40	cw		7
310	271	252	168	289	46	124
95	146	156	259	179	79	131
98	93	92	104	100	88	102
31,674	31,274	29,778	49,821	46,424	20,251	124,687
109	56	36	42	81	15	23
46-48	23	32	9-42	42	8	11-13
225	152	121	56	228.75	32.4	79.5
30	37	10	50	49.25	29.8	49.5
255	189	131	111	278	62.2	129
164	105	91	41	175.35	21.75	60.25
356	364	105	419	403	236	470.7
520	468	196	475	578.35	257.75	530.95
10	2	0	3	2	2	4
3	10	2	11	10.5	3.5	16.25
1	0	15	65	41.5	10	81.1

TABLE 2. TIDEWATER CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013

	<u>ANNA- POLIS</u>	<u>PATUXENT RIVER</u>	<u>JUG BAY</u>	<u>PORT TOBACCO</u>	<u>POINT LOOKOUT</u>
DATE	30-Dec	30-Dec	16-Dec	16-Dec	23-Dec
HOURS		5:00a– 5:30p	6:00a– 3:30p		5:15a– 5:15p
SKY	pc	pc	Cloudy	Cloudy	pc
TEMPERATURE (° F.)	35–41	25–39	42–51	35–50	24–48
WIND (mph)	10–35	25–50	0	Light	0–10
GROUND	Bare	Bare	Bare	Bare	Bare
Snow Goose			1		18
Blue Goose					
Ross’s Goose			1		
Cackling Goose	2		2		1
Canada x Snow Goose					
Canada Goose	7,251	3,839	9,476	2,692	2,341
Mute Swan	5		3	2	
Tundra Swan	472	17	129	15	60
Wood Duck	2	5	6	2	1
Gadwall	6	45	72	7	1
European Wigeon					
American Wigeon	7		1	3	
American Black Duck	34	12	356	92	1
Mallard	812	294	755	149	71
Black x Mallard					
Northern Pintail			70		
Northern Shoveler			7		
Blue-winged Teal					
Green-winged Teal			87		
Canvasback	52				
Redhead	2				
Ring-necked Duck	22	16	39	11	2
Greater Scaup	2,287		3,607		311
Lesser Scaup	81	143	106	19	35
Scaup sp.	968	4	300		
Common Eider					
Harlequin Duck					
Surf Scoter	19	5	117		357
White-winged Scoter					3
American Scoter	5		54		179
Scoter sp.	4				75
Long-tailed Duck	109	48	308		409
Bufflehead	1,241	189	432	137	775
Common Goldeneye	185	24	32	1	179
Barrow’s Goldeneye					1

TABLE 2. TIDEWATER CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

<u>LOWER KENT</u>	<u>DENTON</u>	<u>ST. MICHAELS</u>	<u>SOUTHERN DORC. CO.</u>	<u>CRISFIELD</u>	<u>SALISBURY</u>	<u>OCEAN CITY</u>
16-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec	26-Dec	27-Dec	16-Dec	28-Dec
	5:30a–6:30p	5:00a–6:00p	6:00a–5:00p	6:00a–7:00p	5:15a–5:50p	5:00a–6:00p
Cloudy 45–55 Light Bare	pc 32–54 Light Bare	Cloudy 45–55 Calm Bare	Rain! 36–51 10–20 Flooded	Cloudy 39–48 25–44 Flooded	Cloudy 50–55 Light Bare	pc 33–43 10–25 Saturated
3567 104 1 2 2	1042 6	1	6896 338		202	19,329 60 2
37,684 8 1,390 38 1,264 4 415 953 13,696 6	2,680 53 3	40,737 13 409	10,755 4 642 52 14	1,067 51 3 49	7,856 6 20 5	9,605 676 5 198
	27 135	205 702	160 2167	1 379 214	57 736	177 2564 3845
153 608		17	414 237 10	1		81 157
294 234		17	133	9	3	458 680
11 869 204 10,933 372	55	6 11 2,016 18	1 193 41	1 4 15	28 8 9 7	3 280 13 108 3
						3 3 49
12		724 2 13		1 1 1		7
85 944 564	4 1	15 274 1,878 231	1 168 3	3 1 298 13		244 57 2,445 1

TABLE 2. TIDEWATER CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

	<u>ANNA- POLIS</u>	<u>PATUXENT RIVER</u>	<u>JUG BAY</u>	<u>PORT TOBACCO</u>	<u>POINT LOOKOUT</u>
Hooded Merganser	77	40	22	18	64
Common Merganser			24		2
Red-breasted Merganser	4	8	1		59
Ruddy Duck	1,378	363	98	1,443	2,331
Ruffed Grouse					
Wild Turkey	11		10	5	2
Ring-necked Pheasant					
Northern Bobwhite					
Red-throated Loon	1				4
Common Loon	4		33		44
Pied-billed Grebe	13	3	4	3	2
Horned Grebe	1	3	6		56
White Pelican					1
Brown Pelican		1			172
Northern Gannet	1				40
Double-crested Cormorant	800	25	62	72	96
Great Cormorant	9		1		6
Cormorant sp.					
American Bittern					
Great Blue Heron	93	18	57	20	32
Great Egret					
Little Blue Heron					
Black-crowned Night-Heron				2	
Black Vulture	220	117	444	229	23
Turkey Vulture	267	207	141	235	66
Osprey					
Bald Eagle	43	17	41	175	27
Northern Harrier	1	3	11	9	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	4	9	2	1
Cooper's Hawk	12	1	4	5	2
Accipiter sp.				3	
Red-shouldered Hawk	21	5	35	19	10
Red-tailed Hawk	34	13	25	22	19
Rough-legged Hawk					
Golden Eagle				3	
American Kestrel		1	8	2	6
Merlin	2			1	1
Peregrine Falcon	4				
Clapper Rail			1		1
King Rail					
Virginia Rail	4		8		
Sora			1		
American Coot		2	2		
Black-bellied Plover					
Semipalmated Plover					

TABLE 2. TIDEWATER CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

<u>LOWER KENT</u>	<u>DENTON</u>	<u>ST. MICHAELS</u>	<u>SOUTHERN DORC. CO.</u>	<u>CRISFIELD</u>	<u>SALISBURY</u>	<u>OCEAN CITY</u>
57		13	67	79	30	519
8		5	3		1	
1,429	28	1,092	2	10	12	203
			2,203	480	36	182
					1	
120	18	13	30	39	1	25
5						
1	4					
8			1		5	113
36		86	4	20	1	163
12	2		2	2	3	34
6		17	3	7		21
			5			17
		31				121
344	8	8	47	3	49	30
1		77				4
100	11	49	57	1		
				70	40	96
			1	1		6
				6		3
52	77	66	24	56	13	7
383	249	254	348	750	335	144
						638
						1
137	43	64	64	104	74	131
11	9	5	14	28	16	19
8	1	22		6	12	16
7	7	11	2	7	10	16
2				1	2	
7	15	6	1	1	11	8
48	31	33	2	18	24	31
			1			1
3	19	10	3	15	13	13
		3		1		2
3		1			1	3
			2	2	4	3
1						
7			2	25	15	14
				1	1	
32		1	10		2	15
						148
						3

TABLE 2. TIDEWATER CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

	<u>ANNA- POLIS</u>	<u>PATUXENT RIVER</u>	<u>JUG BAY</u>	<u>PORT TOBACCO</u>	<u>POINT LOOKOUT</u>
Killdeer	31		87	9	40
American Oystercatcher					
Greater Yellow-legs					
Willet					
Lesser Yellow-legs					
Ruddy Turnstone					
Sanderling					2
Least Sandpiper					
Purple Sandpiper	1		12		
Dunlin					
Peep sp.					
Long-bill Dowitcher					
Wilson's Snipe			6	3	
American Woodcock	2		2	6	2
Laughing Gull				1	
Bonaparte's Gull	137				90
Ring-billed Gull	1,604	620	660	418	1,070
Herring Gull	556	82	763	52	136
Iceland Gull					
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1		1		
Great Black-backed Gull	202	22	287	27	63
Gull sp.	180		126	33	
Common Tern					
Forster's Tern					3
Dovekie					
Razor-bill					
Rock Pigeon	238	14	40	5	
Mourning Dove	178	125	531	147	98
Barn Owl			1	1	
Eastern Screech-Owl	10		5	2	6
Great Horned Owl	5	2	16	7	6
Barred Owl	1	6	9		1
Long-eared Owl					
Short-eared Owl					1
Northern Saw-whet Owl					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					
Rufous Hummingbird	2		1	1 sp.	
Belted Kingfisher	25	14	21	23	12
Red-headed Woodpecker		6	1	16	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	192	48	253	77	55
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	38	11	48	11	11
Downy Woodpecker	155	29	170	41	32
Hairy Woodpecker	19	6	45	11	3
Northern Flicker	65	28	204	80	30
Pileated Woodpecker	20	3	69	14	2

TABLE 2. TIDEWATER CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

<u>LOWER KENT</u>	<u>DENTON</u>	<u>ST. MICHAELS</u>	<u>SO. DORCH. CO.</u>	<u>CRISFIELD</u>	<u>SALISBURY</u>	<u>OCEAN CITY</u>
139	46	2	36	3	92	84
1			25	20		15
				11		10
						27
						10
						44
						202
						20
						55
		4	215	56		2,571
			33			
						1
7	4		7	7	3	21
9	3	3	1	1	2	9
						52
2,453	729	596	2,157	1,652	215	4,396
478	9	481	206	5,736	545	654
					1	1
				1	1	2
206		317	2	101	63	107
	34	14		1,927	16	14
						1
			7	2		531
						2
						3
69	243	25	9	158	313	319
228	333	250	85	215	551	1,304
40	9	53	8	2	45	19
62	7	72	4		44	15
4	11	2	1	1		2
1						
1				1	2	
	1					2
						1
						1 sp.
30	10	25	8	14	35	38
1			2			
166	68	104	15	37	87	131
26	14	17	5	2	19	15
112	42	45	18	19	70	111
43	17	11	5	1	17	18
133	71	97	42	46	110	163
16	27	10	11	3	28	32

TABLE 2. TIDEWATER CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

	<u>ANNA- POLIS</u>	<u>PATUXENT RIVER</u>	<u>JUG BAY</u>	<u>PORT TOBACCO</u>	<u>POINT LOOKOUT</u>
Eastern Phoebe	2	1		1	
Blue Jay	301	31	520	315	23
American Crow	576	435	1,091	216	284
Fish Crow	62		83	2	
Crow sp.	57		255		31
Horned Lark		2		1	
Tree Swallow					
Carolina Chickadee	506	179	305	164	68
Tufted Titmouse	435	134	316	148	53
Red-breasted Nuthatch	23	8	32	3	22
White-breasted Nuthatch	162	22	150	48	12
Brown-headed Nuthatch		7			100
Brown Creeper	14	5	23	3	3
Carolina Wren	301	78	314	95	78
House Wren	1			1	1
Winter Wren	45	5	32	14	3
Sedge Wren					2
Marsh Wren					1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	29	7	27	29	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	10	30	14	2
Eastern Bluebird	268	160	300	121	131
Hermit Thrush	41	7	67	40	9
American Robin	3,125	363	1,717	657	78
Gray Catbird	12	1	33	1	
Northern Mockingbird	127	48	111	48	34
Brown Thrasher	8	1	28	5	3
European Starling	4,101	1,073	3,454	1,442	703
American Pipit	112	180	288	16	18
Cedar Waxwing	910	219	700	174	102
Lapland Longspur		1			
Snow Bunting		5			
Orange-crowned Warbler					
Nashville Warbler					
Yellow Warbler			1		
Palm Warbler					3
Pine Warbler		2			2
Myrtle Warbler	26	56	73	99	44
Eastern Towhee	65	8	93	63	23
American Tree Sparrow	1				
Chipping Sparrow		14	2	16	7
Clay-colored Sparrow		1			
Field Sparrow	20	1	108	6	38
Vesper Sparrow					
Savannah Sparrow	1	29	71	14	32
Ipswich race					

TABLE 2. TIDEWATER CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

<u>LOWER KENT</u>	<u>DENTON</u>	<u>ST. MICHAELS</u>	<u>SO. DORCH. CO.</u>	<u>CRISFIELD</u>	<u>SALISBURY</u>	<u>OCEAN CITY</u>
1	4				6	12
576	176	426	21	44	218	265
279	186	445	270	561	615	686
	7		319	50	197	
		11	609	375	50	7
122	362	4	5			80
1						7
265	138	230	77	88	297	342
183	100	123	65	31	138	200
41	27	64		6	34	64
106	33	43	2	3	16	13
13		32	30	19	30	34
12	9	8	1	1	26	17
272	101	153	29	76	189	277
1		1		1	2	1
36	27	7	7	8	16	67
				1	1	1
9				3	9	5
25	42	10	3	9	84	82
19	8	5	2	3	28	14
214	278	345	59	196	359	393
20	36	11	3	17	48	43
613	435	1,962	253	325	1,283	11,836
2		5	3	2	17	24
165	91	161	9	41	100	166
13	2	7	1	3	19	23
2,943	2,987	3,221	478	3,202	2,552	8,056
230	101				170	206
272	51	937	12	44	399	118
	2					
						5
			1			
			1		1	8
2		1	2		1	13
40	26	361	137	375	161	2,504
59	8	9	6	12	75	61
1					1	1
3	9	13		8	93	599
					1	1
53	39	21	8	23	55	87
						1
78	35	9	16	23	28	394
						23

TABLE 2. TIDEWATER CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

	<u>ANNA- POLIS</u>	<u>PATUXENT RIVER</u>	<u>JUG BAY</u>	<u>PORT TOBACCO</u>	<u>POINT LOOKOUT</u>
Sharp-tailed Sparrow sp.					
Fox Sparrow	18	3	30		5
Song Sparrow	252	70	398	244	42
Swamp Sparrow	54	45	165	39	10
White-throated Sparrow	1,824	385	1,783	324	209
White-crowned Sparrow			4	9	
Dark-eyed Junco	1,311	561	1,209	736	288
Northern Cardinal	644	170	655	171	119
Red-winged Blackbird	1,004	88	23,195	716	1,382
Eastern Meadowlark		4	31	16	45
Rusty Blackbird	cw		10		
Boat-tailed Grackle					
Common Grackle	342	15	29,869	2437	11
Brown-headed Cowbird	101	50	13	683	1,230
Blackbird sp.	140		40		100
Purple Finch	3	2	5		cw
House Finch	324	52	101	42	
Red Crossbill	4				
White-winged Crossbill	24				
Crossbill sp.					
Common Redpoll		2			
Pine Siskin	13				
American Goldfinch	294	116	202	74	54
Evening Grosbeak					
House Sparrow	207	57	118	30	126
Total species	107	93	115	93	107
Total individuals	38,137	11,213	88,416	15,660	15,139
Observers	75	20	41	18	24
Parties	38-41	12	27	9	4-8
Hours on foot	180	31.5	102	39.5	28.75
Hours by car	95	35	49	23.5	22
Total hours	275	66.5	156	63	50.75
Miles on foot	86	43	70.75	32.5	27
Miles by car	601	291	444.3	180	132
Total miles	687	334	515	212.5	159
Feeder hours	28	4	5.5	0	0
Owling hours	13	0.75	3	3	
Owling miles	20	0.5	8	7.5	

TABLE 2. TIDEWATER CHRISTMAS COUNTS 2012-2013 (CONT'D.)

<u>LOWER KENT</u>	<u>DENTON</u>	<u>ST. MICHAELS</u>	<u>SO. DORCH. CO.</u>	<u>CRISFIELD</u>	<u>SALISBURY</u>	<u>OCEAN CITY</u>
15	3	3	4	1 6	13	1 84
502	158	346	110	188	381	1,051
265	17	39	49	93	166	285
1,549	932	1,010	134	527	872	2,662
36	12	3		3	10	
961	1,147	1,192	151	354	1,011	1,210
676	147	310	57	163	279	443
6,577	10,162	23,188	14,135	5,908	2,869	8,431
28	17	10	8	63	74	295
8	4		1 30		30	10 3
18,312	12,584	744	37,400	27	10,616	9,330
1,249	198	300	2	14	217	569
140	2,600				12,000	600
5	4	2			5	8
96	175	106	3	3	60	241
1						4
26	6	8				28
3						
						1
68	15	61	4	3	63	34
312	178	245	26	130	294	387
		2				
124	85	106	37	10	98	226
124	88	102	110	108	111	155
119,093	40,740	87,584	82,609	27,267	48,347	112,069
27	16	46	12	18	29	56
10	14-16	15	7	13	14	26
62.75	44	27.1	18	56.45	49.25	138
54	34.5	66.6	42.25	37.1	29	62.5
116.75	78.5	97.37	62.25	97.8	87.25	202.5
50.25	21.5	35.8	13	38.25	21.5	88
321	311.5	408.65	258.5	272.7	345.5	512
371.25	333	458.95	283.5	312.15	377	602
0	0	14	0	0	0	0
14.25	7.5	16.58	2	4.25	8.5	8
59.8	51.2	111.2	12	1.2		37

2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

During the past year MOS has continued to meet the requirements of our mission while also meeting the needs of our members. Thanks to the many volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts, we are a dynamic organization that continues to change proportionally with our environment.

This year's conference in Ocean City was a resounding success — one that was scheduled in February when weather could have hampered attendance. Weather, however, was largely accommodating as were the birds at Assateague: Northern Saw-whet Owl and Lark Sparrow, as well as two Razorbills at the inlets, were seen by many. Our planned pelagic, however, did not occur due to rough seas. Our keynote was provided by David Brinker of MD DNR where he discussed dynamics in Northern Goshawk life histories. Maryanne Dolan provided a workshop on waterfowl and there were many to be seen afterwards.

Awards included Outstanding Service to our Records Committee Secretary, Phil Davis, and Exceptional Achievement Awards to our outgoing Yellowthroat editor and designer, Lydia Suzanne Probst and Lydia Schindler, respectively. Valued Service Awards went to both Kurt Schwarz and Tom Alderson for their work in keeping a vigilant approach to conservation issues not only in Maryland, but throughout the nation and the world where birds are concerned. Sincere thanks go out to all of you!

Sadly, we lost a past president, and longtime servant of the Society, Mr. John Malcolm. John has been involved with MOS for decades and had taken the Awards Committee to new levels because of his dedication and passionate service. John strongly believed that volunteers should be well recognized for all they do and he saw to it that officers and others were recognized for their efforts. John also did an excellent job of jurying the MOS pin contest where many anonymous judges were given objective criteria with which to score each entry. If all of this wasn't enough he also was the steward of the Merchandise Committee. John is survived by his partner Joy Aso and will be sorely missed.

Lastly, I want to thank many who give their service to the Society expecting nothing in return. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and without them MOS does not exist. Thanks go out to all of you, especially Janet Shields, Dave Webb and our new president, Maureen Harvey. Thanks everyone for a successful term.

Mark S. Johnson, President

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

In even this truncated "year" the Conservation Committee has been quite active. Since the last meeting, we have submitted 22 letters, mostly at the Federal level. Comment letters have been directed to the Bureau of Land Management (2), the Department of the Navy (1), the Forest Service (2), the National Park Service (3), the Fish and Wildlife Service (8), Maryland's U.S. Senators (1), the entire Maryland U.S. Congressional Delegation (1), the Bureau of Off-Shore Energy, Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (1), the Army Corps of Engineers (1), and Charles County Commissioners (1). Topics included off-road vehicles, wind

power, endangered species, pesticides, land usage. Of local interest, we petitioned the Charles County Commissioners to halt the Cross-County Connector, which would have harmed the Assawoman watershed (and was a successful effort). They also commented on the George Washington National Forest and Chincoteague NWR in neighboring Virginia.

We also signed onto at least four joint letters: National Audubon concerning the National Petroleum Reserve, an international letter on bird trapping in Cyprus (thank you Maureen!), American Bird Conservancy regarding Spotted Owls, and the Center for Biodiversity on lead ammunition.

Lastly, about nine action alerts were sent to the MOS membership via the MOS listserve, which apparently did not reach a wide audience.

Kurt Schwarz, Chair

MARYLAND/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECORDS COMMITTEE

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) was held on 5 March 2011. Highlights of the meeting and of the past year's activities follow:

1. Official List Changes and Status. Golden-crowned Sparrow, Brown Booby, Barnacle Goose, and Cassin's Sparrow were added the Maryland Official List since last year's Annual Meeting.

2. Acceptance Rate. The committee's cumulative acceptance rate stands at 78.1 percent based on over 1,100 decisions.

3. Database Contents. Over 3,000 database records are being tracked. During the previous year, over 300 historical reports were added to the database from reports uncovered from the historical canvass and over 100 current reports were added.

4. ID Articles and Index. The committee now has approximately 916 identification and reference articles in its files for 116 taxa.

5. AOU Taxonomy Updates. Updates to the MD/DCRC database were made to incorporate the changes of the AOU's 52nd Supplement, including:

Splits:

- Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
- Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

Old World Common Moorhen is distinguished from New World populations by voice and by subtle differences in appearance and the English and scientific names of the North American birds changed. One record from the Aleutian Islands in fall 2010, if confirmed, will be North America's first Common Moorhen, adding a new species.

Changes to species names:

- Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia*
 - MacGillivray’s Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei*
 - Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa*
 - Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina*
 - Kirtland’s Warbler *Setophaga kirtlandii*
 - Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina*
 - Cerulean Warbler *Setophaga cerulea*
 - Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*
 - Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiaiyumi*
 - Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*
 - Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea*
 - Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*
 - Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*
 - Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*
 - Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata*
 - Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens*
 - Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum*
 - Pine Warbler *Setophaga pinus*
 - Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*
 - Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica*
 - Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor*
 - Grace’s Warbler *Setophaga graciae*
 - Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens*
 - Townsend’s Warbler *Setophaga townsendi*
 - Hermit Warbler *Setophaga occidentalis*
 - Golden-cheeked Warbler *Setophaga chrysoparia*
 - Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*
 - Fan-tailed Warbler *Basileuterus lachrymosus*
 - Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis*
 - Wilson’s Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*

- formerly *Oporornis philadelphia*
 - formerly *Oporornis tolmiei*
 - formerly *Oporornis formosus*
 - [note change in spelling of species name]
 - formerly *Wilsonia citrina*
 - formerly *Dendroica kirtlandii*
 - formerly *Dendroica tigrina*
 - formerly *Dendroica cerulea*
 - formerly *Parula americana*
 - formerly *Parula pitiaiyumi*
 - formerly *Dendroica magnolia*
 - formerly *Dendroica castanea*
 - formerly *Dendroica fusca*
 - formerly *Dendroica petechia*
 - formerly *Dendroica pensylvanica*
 - formerly *Dendroica striata*
 - formerly *Dendroica caerulescens*
 - formerly *Dendroica palmarum*
 - formerly *Dendroica pinus*
 - formerly *Dendroica coronata*
 - formerly *Dendroica dominica*
 - formerly *Dendroica discolor*
 - formerly *Dendroica graciae*
 - formerly *Dendroica nigrescens*
 - formerly *Dendroica townsendi*
 - formerly *Dendroica occidentalis*
 - formerly *Dendroica chrysoparia*
 - formerly *Dendroica virens*
 - formerly *Euthlypis lachrymosa*
 - [note change in spelling of species name]
 - formerly *Wilsonia canadensis*
 - formerly *Wilsonia pusilla*

6. Historical Canvass. A number of related initiatives are still underway to capture all historical “reviewable” reports. Overall, this project is approximately 98 percent complete and should be completely finished by next year’s Annual Meeting.

7. MOS MD/DCRC Web Page Updates. The Secretary has continued to update and publish MD/DCRC data products to the committee’s web pages on the MOS web site. The link to the committee’s web pages is: <http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>.

8. Review List Changes. No changes were made to the DC Review List. The following changes were implemented to the MD Review List:

- Northern Goshawk

Roseate Tern

Brewer’s Blackbird

Added to the MD Review List in category 2, reviewable anywhere in MD

Moved into Category 2, reviewable anywhere in MD

Restored to the list in Category 2, reviewable anywhere in MD

10. Elections

• **New members.** Members completing their voting terms were Tyler Bell, Gwen Brewer, and Mikey Lutmerding. The committee thanks them for all their efforts over the past years. Special thanks to Tyler for agreeing to rejoin the committee after a short break to take over the term of a member who resigned. Also, thanks to Stan Arnold who was recently re-appointed to the committee to fill another vacancy. The new members elected for three-year terms were: Patty Craig (St. Mary's), Rob Ostrowski (Anne Arundel), and Dan Small (Queen Anne's).

• **Chair.** Bill Hubick was re-elected as the Chair.

• **Secretary.** Phil Davis was re-elected as the Secretary.

Phil Davis, MD/DC Records Committee Secretary

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, APRIL 30, 2012

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<u>Income:</u>		
Membership Dues	18,000	24,742.50
Interest on Operating Funds	6,782	4,312.69
Interest on Non-Designated Funds	3,538	5,734.49
Earth Share Mid-Atlantic & Other Charitable Campaigns	2,600	3,018.14
General Donations	100	2,315.00
Conservation-earmarked Donations	—	470.00
Sales/Publications	500	338.30
Miscellaneous	100	750.90
Total Income	\$31,620	\$41,682.02
<u>Operating Expenses (*)</u>		
Officers' Expenses	2,575	800.00
Affiliations & Memberships	250	350.00
Audit / Review	9,000	10,150.00
Awards	1,360	2,160.75
Bulk Storage	3,240	2,723.52
Chapter Reimbursement for Meetings	200	200.00
Database Management	500	500.00
Liability Insurance	3,400	3,459.00
Management Training	300	149.00

** No budget or actual expenses for the following committees: Bylaws, Library, Nest Records, Nominating, Publicity, & Seasonal Counts.*

Merchandise & Sales Tax	100	93.75
Office Supplies	200	119.56
Postage	200	200.53
Printing & Duplication	200	92.05
Telephone	800	606.34
Contingencies / Miscellaneous	50	152.13
<u>Committees & Projects:</u>		
Alternate Energy	25	—
Bird Trail	25	—
Birds of North America Online	—	475.00
Budget	25	—
Communications:		
Maryland Birdlife	—	—
Yellowthroat	7,500	8,398.08
MOS Website	120	9.95
Member Listserve	240	153.00
Other Publications	350	350.00
Conservation	700	550.00
Development/EFM	25	—
Historian	10	—
Investments	25	—
Long-range Planning	25	—
Membership	125	—
Records	50	—
<u>Board-approved Post-budget Expenses:</u>		
Yellow Books (additional)	—	1,236.16
Custom Print Merchandise	—	226.55
Piscataway Signs	—	223.66
Sanctuary Signs	—	1,138.50
<hr/>		
Total Expenses:	\$31,620	\$34,517.53

Special Funds & Committees:

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Add'l Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Atlas	1,822.32	1,751.90	832.56
Education			
Statewide Education	2,871.43	0.00	602.77
Youth Programs	2,871.44	2,825.75	6,670.41
Research	2,401.81	140.00	2,400.00
Sanctuary	15,867.00	1,638.00	14,089.40
Scholarship	8,048.77	795.00	7,244.40

Dave Webb, Treasurer

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

With the toll of ongoing belt-tightening beginning to dry up funding pools in the greater research community, MOS's research grants continue to provide much needed support to those students and scientists who are working on our state's birdlife. The research committee received a good number of grant proposals in the 2011 fiscal year and spent its annual budget in support of four particularly impressive projects. The committee's allocations included \$340 for DNA sequencing supplies to Sarah Manor (UMBC graduate student) who is studying Marsh Wrens in Maryland (and range-wide) in order to better elucidate the evolutionary processes of coastal marshes. Sara Rothamel (Frostburg State graduate student) also received a \$500 grant in support of mist nets, color bands, and other field materials needed to commence a study of territoriality and breeding behavior of Cerulean Warblers in Western Maryland. The committee continued support of Clark Rushing's (UMCP graduate student) ambitious work, allocating \$1,200 to his research aimed at understanding the causes and consequences of natal dispersal in local migratory birds, such as the American Redstart. Lastly, Dan Small (Ecologist at the Chester River Field Research Center) received \$360 for radio transmitters that will permit the CRFRC to track Grasshopper Sparrows at the former Chino Farms site throughout the species' cryptic post-fledgling period. As always, on behalf of our grant recipients and the research review committee, we express great appreciation to our MOS membership for supporting research efforts that allow us to better understand Maryland's birds.

David Ziolkowski, Chair

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE (No Report)

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The MOS scholarship committee received six applications to attend Audubon workshops on Hog Island this summer; one applicant subsequently withdrew during the review process. Five awards were made this year, and two recipients from 2011 program were funded for programs this summer since their workshop choice for last year had filled up by the time the committee had made final selections. The mailing of flyers and submission deadlines for the scholarship program were shifted several months earlier this year to better synchronize with the earlier registration Project Puffin began last year. Because the scholarship funds for scholarships were much reduced from prior years, the distribution of the flyer was limited to avoid the potential of many disappointed applicants. The Audubon Naturalist Society and the Kent County Bird Club supplemented the scholarship budget. A portion of the Scholarship budget is used for the summer workshop for teachers operated for the past several years by George Radcliff and Wayne Bell at Washington College.

There were four choices offered for teacher workshops this year: "Field Ornithology," "Joy of Birding," "Sharing Nature – An Educator's Week," and "Maine Seabird Biology and Conservation." Project Puffin/National Audubon operates the first three and the last one is

operated by the Road Scholar organization (previously known as Elderhostel). The “Sharing Nature” workshop continues to be the most popular program.

The committee encourages MOS members to spread the word and to seek applicants such as teachers, park rangers, environmental educators, and community volunteers who would benefit from the scholarship program. A scholarship is the “gift that keeps on giving.”

Tom Strikwerda, Chair

SANCTUARIES COMMITTEE

Carey Run

As in the past several years we had no structured official workday to open the house and start the season. The workdays were discontinued due to low attendance and the local volunteers felt it was easier to prepare the site on their own schedule. Thus, a few dedicated local club members readied the site for visitors. The house is open for guests normally from the end of April until October. Over the summer season there were eight reservations to stay overnight at the Carey Run house. The reservations included individuals, family groups, and several youth groups. The duration of the visits included overnight to weeklong stays. The number of day visits is unknown.

Irish Grove

Irish Grove had 18 reservations so far this year. Most visits are during the low mosquito season, late Fall to early Spring, but some hardy souls stay there during the summer months as well. The House is open for guests year round, however the well system is disconnected during the winter so guests need to bring their own water for washing as well as drinking water.

Two workdays were held at Irish Grove this year. The spring work weekend was on April 9–10 and the fall work weekend was on October 11–12. Both weekends were used for trail maintenance, yard work, and housekeeping activities. A pending major project at Irish Grove is replacement of the house roof. The roof is over 20 years old and is due for replacement. This job is too big a project to undertake with our aging small group of volunteers. We are looking for a local contractor to undertake the job for us.

I have focused on our reservations because this is the only way we really have to gauge the usage of these properties. While the numbers are not large the number of visits appears to remain steady over the years. From the comments in the guest books I have seen that the same visitors return year after year. While these houses may not be the most modern of accommodations they are appreciated and enjoyed year after year by members of the MOS. These rustic farm houses give our members a great opportunity to spend time with nature literally at your door step.

Brent Beyers, Chair

CHAPTER REPORTS

ALLEGANY & GARRETT COUNTIES BIRD CLUB

The Allegany/Garrett Chapter is a small one, but even so, we had plenty of activities this year, starting off with our annual picnic at Carey Run in September. It's always a good way to get the year started, and we had a nice turn-out. Bill Devlin led a number of us on a hike around the Blue Bird trail, pointing out bear damage as we walked. Bill has been responsible for the Blue Bird trail for 39 years!! and wants to hand the job over to someone else. He is actively seeking a replacement.

We held all our meetings at Compton Hall, Frostburg State University. We had excellent speakers this past year, including Donnelle Keech of The Nature Conservancy, speaking on forest habitat conservation; Gwen Brewer and George Jett, talking about their trip to Cuba (and a good overview of what Cuba is like today). Our Annual Banquet speaker was Ron Gutberlet, speaking on Alaska 2008. We have a nice turn-out for the banquet, with approximately 33 attendees. Our speakers for January through April were Sara Rothamel, an FSU graduate student, who gave a presentation on "Territoriality and habitat composition of Cerulean warbler assemblages in Western Maryland"; Tom Matthews, retired biologist from DNR, who spoke about restoring habitat for the woodcock and golden-winged warbler; J.B. Churchill gave a presentation on "Birding tech"; and Mikey Lutmerding gave a great presentation on "Birding in Peru from the Andes to the Pacific." Our meetings were generally well attended this year!

We participated in the Fall count, the Christmas count, and the May count. We partnered with a new group out here, named 'Home Ground' for a hawk watching weekend. We went to Town Hill on Saturday, Oct. 8, led by Ray Kiddy, and then we went to Dan's Rock on Sunday. Both events were well attended, but there were quite a lot of people at Dan's Rock.

We partnered again with Home Ground in February for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Mary Huebner co-led a workshop with Raquel Ketterman of Home Ground, and then took a field trip with the participants.

We held our usual field trip to Finzel Swamp, Piney Reservoir, and Meadows Lake and Campground. We had an unusually large number of attendees on that trip! We added three new trips for warblers, one to Green Ridge, one to New Germany State Park, and one more to Garrett County. No one showed up for the third trip, but we had a nice number of attendees on the New Germany trip.

Mary Huebner attended the Appalachian Festival in Frostburg, and Heritage Days in Cumberland, and handed out brochures for the Chapter. She also had a display table at Leadership Allegany (Environmental Day), and had brochures there as well. Good PR for the Club.

All in all, 2012 was a good year for this Chapter. More and more people are expressing an interest in the Club, but not too many new members yet. I keep adding names to my emailings, and hope new memberships will be generated this way.

Mary Huebner, President

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

The Anne Arundel Bird Club had a productive year from August 2011–July 2012. We finished the year with 151 members, participated in five bird counts, had eight very informative speakers on a variety of topics, and supported 29 field trips. Approximately 308 people participated in the field trips and at least 189 species were seen. The annual counts included the Fall, Christmas (Annapolis and Gibson Island area), Mid-Winter and May Counts plus a well-attended “Big Sit” in October at Fort Smallwood. Typical field trip participation included a dozen AABC members along with other MOS chapter members and/or visitors.

The officers for the year were: Colin Rees, President; Kathie Lambert/Kevin Smith, Trip Vice President; Gerald Winegrad/Barbara Johnson, Program Vice President; Stacy Epperson, Social Secretary; Bobbi Reichwein, Recording Secretary, Juanita Tate, Treasurer and Membership Chair; David Gillum, 1st Year Director; and Marilyn Taylor, 2nd Year Director. Danalee Henkart was editor of the quarterly newsletter, Dan Haas was our Webmaster and Peter Hanan was our e-Mail Master.

Areas visited included: Bombay Hook NWR; Swan Creek; Greenbury Point; Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary; Patuxent River Park, Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary; Chincoteague, Kiptopeke and Eastern Shore of Virginia; Hawk Mountain, PA.; Wooten’s Landing; Blackwater NWR; Annapolis Neck and Thomas Point; Fort Smallwood Parks; Quiet Waters Park; Pocomoke River; Governor’s Bridge Natural Area; North Beach, Cypress Swamp, Flag Ponds and Calvert Cliffs State Park; Fairhill Natural Resource Area and Tri-State Bird Rescue; Patuxent Research Refuge -North Tract; the Delaware Bay (several locations); and Marshy Point Park.

Speakers included Art McMorris (Peregrine Falcons: The Saga of Recovery), Graham Watkins (The Birds and Other Wildlife of the Galapagos and Conservation Challenges), Peter Hanan (Maniac Tours Does the Wildlife of Brazil), Jamie Kellam (The Wonders and Management of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge), Clive Harris (Identifying Gulls in the Region: Making the Difficult Simpler), Richard Ruggiero (The Fight to Save African Elephants, Rhinos, Hippos, Chimpanzees and Gorillas), Stephan Kress (Project Puffin and Other Successes with Seabird Restoration), and Gerald Winegrad and Stacy Epperson (Red Knots and the Horseshoe Crabs, Delaware Bay).

Several members contributed articles to the *Maryland Yellowthroat* sharing their experiences on trips throughout the country. Additionally, many members volunteered at local parks (Generals Highway Corridor Park, Hammonds Connection, Quiet Waters Park and Kinder Farm Park). And the Club had a presence (and conducted a bird walk) as part of the Quiet Waters Park Earth Day activities.

The Conservation Group of the Club has been meeting regularly to help shape a conservation program, including partnering with conservation organizations. Members attended public hearings, joined demonstrations against developments threatening wildlife habitat and wrote papers on environmental issues for MOS member clubs. For this and other services, the MOS presented the Club with a 2011/12 Chapter Achievement Award.

AABC had a good year and is looking forward to another for 2012-2013.

Colin Rees, President

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB

Membership: As of May 2012, the BBC has 205 memberships and 252 members.

Lectures: The BBC offers a lecture open free to the general public on a bird-related topic held the first Tuesday of the month from September through May. The lectures began this year in September with a talk on birding the lower Rio Grand Valley in Texas and ended in May with a talk about the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Each January we hold a covered dish dinner and lecture that is open to all members. Don Messersmith talked to us about Changes in birding in China over 25 years—1982-2007. About 75 members attend. At this meeting we introduced our MOS backpack awardees, and presented a BBC Distinguished Service Award to Shirley Geddes for 30 years of service.

Field trips: BBC sponsored more than 100 field trips throughout the year. Some of them were weekly events, such as the Robert E. Lee Park, Fort McHenry, and Cylburn walks. We held our fall and spring Swift Watch evenings, which are always popular. Frequent field trips were taken at other local hot spots, as well as to the eastern shore or in other counties.

Counts: BBC members participated in the following bird counts: Baltimore Fall Count, Baltimore Harbor Christmas Bird Count and May Count.

Conservation: The BBC has an active Conservation Committee (BBC CC) that works both independently and in close collaboration with the MOS Conservation Committee. In addition to the Conservation Committee, we do other conservation-related activities through our association with Robert E Lee Park and our Lights Out Baltimore! efforts.

Led four interdisciplinary walks into two Baltimore City Reservoirs (Prettyboy and Liberty), where the City and DNR have thinned or cleared 20 acres of trees, as part of a 3-year City Reservoir Forest Management Study. We started (October, 2010) a 3 year project to monitor bird life and forest regeneration on the study plots.

Participated in MOS conservation alerts.

Participated in the nature council and environmental council at the new Robert E. Lee Park, established in October 2011. This park (one of BBC's favorite migration locales) had been closed for two years to undergo infrastructure improvements under county (no longer city) control.

Volunteers with Lights Out Baltimore (15+) continue to walk a 3-mile stretch of the Baltimore Harbor at 5:00 AM daily, during spring and fall migration, to monitor bird collisions with glass buildings. Injured birds go to rehab. Dead birds go to the Smithsonian Dept. of Ornithology. Provided outreach through several lectures and booth displays at public events.

Cylburn relationship: The BBC maintains the ongoing relationship between Baltimore City, Cylburn Arboretum Association (CAA) and MOS.

Cornell eBird Trail Tracker Kiosk at Visitor Center: The BBC continued to host and maintain the Trail Tracker in collaboration with the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks.

Carriage House Nature Museum: BBC members assist Cylburn Arboretum Association as docents at the Nature Museum.

Participation in Events at Cylburn: BBC hosted a Backyard Birding symposium at Cylburn in late April. There were 30 attendees from the general public.

Collections Committee: Karen Morley led the joint BBC/MOS Collections Committee. The committee consists of both BBC and MOS representatives. A mission statement and collection policy was drafted, although not yet finalized. Work began on itemizing several collections, including journals, books, skeletons, and fossils. This work will continue.

Other Activities: We updated our Constitution and Bylaws, which were approved by members at the January Covered Dish Dinner meeting. BBC hosted display tables at several park events at Robert E Lee Park and Cromwell Valley Park over the course of the year.

Publications/Outreach

Chip Notes: The current Chip Notes editor is Joan Cwi, and the Design Editor is Karen Morley. There are four editions, Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. Chip Notes is delivered electronically to all members, except those specifically designating they want paper copies (about 20% of memberships); past archived issues are available on the BBC website.

E-News: This monthly e-newsletter is sent electronically at the end of each month to all members with an email address. It includes an inclusive list of all events scheduled for the next month, as well as other information we want members to have. It is a good way to alert members to new trips that have been scheduled since the release of the Program Booklet.

Program Book: We produce a hard copy program book with a listing of all scheduled BBC events (known at the time of production).

BBC Facebook: BBC started a Baltimore City/County Facebook page in June, 2012. It currently has over 70 members. It is too early to comment on its contributions.

Website Revitalization: Despite our best intentions, we did not get to revitalize the website this year. Maybe next year....

Youth Birding: Our youth leader, Marty Brazeau, established the Baltimore Orioles Junior Birding Club. He holds youth workshops at nearby nature sanctuaries and leads about eight field trips specifically designated for youth. In addition, he led two weekend youth trips to Irish Grove and Carey Run. Marty is working closely with George Radcliffe on the effort and there may be combined county youth activities in the future.

New Officers

New BBC Officers for the 2012-2013 year were voted on and approved at the May 1st Lecture. The officers are:

President — Joan Cwi

Vice President — Karen Morley

Treasurer — Dick Krejci
Recording Secretary — Paula Schugam
Membership — Catherine Bishop
BBC Directors — Debbie Terry, Pete Webb, Kevin Graff
MOS Directors — Karen Morley, Peter Lev, Pete Webb

Joan Cwi, President

CARROLL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The Carroll County Bird Club's 2011-2012 season was busy and fun. We held eight monthly meetings, three at Westminster Senior Center and five at the new South Carroll Senior Center with an average attendance of about 10 people. The featured speakers covered birding in many parts of the world including Turkey, Canada, and Australia. Thanks to club Secretary Karen Mobley for coordinating refreshments and the many members who treated us with goodies.

Volunteers Ray Bourgeois, Jerry Tarbell, Dave Harvey, and Bob Ringler led field trips to Carroll County hot spots, as well as more distant trips to view birds in their many habitats. Our normal Presidents' Day weekend outing to the Eastern Shore fell victim to the MOS winter Convention. Volunteer efforts weren't limited to field trips. Several members participated in the annual fall count, winter count, and May bird count. These counts were all supported by wonderful get-togethers for the tallies. Maureen Harvey, Laura Tarbell, and Bill and Pat Ellis were mostly responsible for feeding the weary counters as they returned from the field after their long days of counting.

Once again we cemented our close relationships with the help of our annual January party at the home of Sue and Splinter Yingling and our annual summer picnic at the home of Amy Hoffman.

Dave Harvey, President

CECIL BIRD CLUB

From May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012, Cecil County had: eight Chapter meetings, seven of which had speakers; 11 field trips; Christmas Bird Count; and four community events: North East River Wade-In, Spring Fever Event, Perryville Lions Club (talk), Conowingo clean-up.

In addition, Cecil County conducted a number of blitzes on behalf of Audubon to designate Elk Neck an IBA.

And finally, Pat Valdata submits the following in behalf of our hawk watch:

For the 18th Turkey Point Hawk Watch at Elk Neck State Park, volunteers observed 2,467 hawks during 253.5 hours daily between Labor Day and Thanksgiving. Monthly totals

were 570 in September, 1,564 in October, and 333 in November. Rain, fog, and snow prevented observations on 15 days during this period.

The Cecil Bird Club thanks weekday volunteers Bill and Mary Jo Collins, Maryanne Dolan, Ken Drier, Richard Donham, and Pat Valdata; weekend volunteer John P. Taylor; and substitutes Monroe Harden, David Kimball, Lin and Jim Just, Don Bayard, Denis Quinn, Kevin Graff, Chris Starling, Greg Futral, and Meta Little. Special thanks go to David Kimball for compiling the data and to Hawk Watch founder Charlie Gant, who also observed periodically. Pat Valdata scheduled volunteers and coordinated with the State Park Office.

Maryanne Dolan, President

FREDERICK BIRD CLUB

The Frederick Bird Club's annual planning meeting was held in June, 2011, hosted by the outgoing Chapter President, Kathy Calvert. The schedule and field trip plan was developed, and this plan was finalized and confirmed through the next few weeks. A final schedule was mailed to members in late summer, prior to our first official meeting of the program year.

Our schedule included a full series of meetings, educational and entertaining, on the first Thursday of each month from September to May. We heard presentations on birding travel to North America, Europe's low countries, Central America, Senegal, and the Pacific coasts of Central and South America. Other presentations dealt with non-bird subjects; things to look at when the birds are scarce and Maryland's geology. At our Christmas Dinner meeting, Don Messersmith recounted his seventy years of finding and studying birds. Finally, an ever-popular meeting program was Members' Night, when individual members had the opportunity to make their own short presentations of their photos or videos. At all meetings, members have an opportunity to share their latest bird sightings, to hear reports of field trips from the previous months, and to get previews of upcoming field trips and events.

Because Frederick County Public Libraries now close at 8 instead of 9 p.m., our meetings this season were held at Homewood at Crumland Farms, a retirement community which generously provided an excellent venue. This enabled us to continue our meetings as long as we wished. The exception was the May meeting, when Homewood has an alternate event scheduled on the first Thursday, and the meeting was held at Frederick High School.

The season featured a full series of field trips and counts. From September to May, there was a "First Friday" morning walk, in which people are invited to appear without reservations at 8 a.m. in a park in the city of Frederick, and the destination is chosen by the leader. Attendance was variable, quite dependent on the weather, and perhaps additional publicity would help. One walk on a cold blustery day was attended by a reporter and photographer from the Frederick News-Post (and nobody else besides the leader), and resulted in a nice article in the December-January "Senior Living" magazine supplement.

The only other weekday field trip was a Poplar Island trip on September 12, which was well attended by Frederick Bird Club members and others. Other outings to popular Frederick County sites and more distant parts of Maryland and Delaware were well attended, with several members picking up new life birds and learning of new birding areas.

Frederick Bird Club members split up to cover the county in a Fall Count, a Mid-winter Count, and a May Count, and to cover the count circles in the Catoctin and Sugarloaf Christmas Counts. They also carried out Mid-Winter and May Counts at the two wildlife sanctuaries in Frederick County owned by the Audubon Society of Central Maryland.

Requests for presentations on birds are occasionally received by the Frederick Bird Club, and this year programs were given at Middletown and Brunswick High Schools, with the former also including an outing to Washington Monument State Park, where migrating raptors put on a good show. In addition, Club members put up a display at a Nature Fest held at Frederick County's new Catoctin Nature Center, in addition to leading a well-attended bird walk at that event. Club members are helping the Nature Center develop an understanding of the bird life at this Center.

Bob Schaefer completed his first year as the Club's President, and Tom Humphrey as Vice President. Nancy Parker, Kathy Brown, and Helen Horrocks continued to serve as Treasurer, Secretary, and Chapter Delegate to MOS respectively, as they have for several years. Nancy Parker will continue as Treasurer and Helen Horrocks as Delegate, but Marilyn Veek will replace Kathy Brown as Secretary. The Club is grateful to Kathy for her years of service.

The final meeting of the year was the Club Picnic at Pinecliff Park, which featured beautiful weather before and after dinner, with a harmless downpour while we ate our dinner under the shelter of the pavilion. Highlights of the after-dinner bird walk were nests of Eastern Kingbirds high on a light tower, and of Baltimore Orioles in the standard Sycamore tree.

Membership numbers this year were: 1 Life Member, 37 Individuals, 25 Households, 0 Juniors, and 7 Associates. Attendance at meetings was generally good, about 30 persons.

Robert Schaefer, President

HARFORD BIRD CLUB

HBC continued its focus on the recruitment and retention of young members. Becky Gallo remained as chair of the "Harford Herons," as the kids named themselves. The HJBC's Callum MacLellan-O'Brien was a proud and enthusiastic member of the YMOS Chesapeake Chippers who took sixth place in their division of the World Series of Birding. Due to family responsibilities, Becky will be stepping down as Youth chair for next year.

The club held five general business meetings. At our July summer social at the Anita Leight Estuary Center in Edgewood, members and guests heard a presentation by club member Debbie Bowers on landscaping our homes to be bird friendly. Nearly 40 members celebrated the new membership year with a pit beef picnic at the Eden Mill Nature Center. The chapter continued its solid relationship with Churchville Presbyterian Church by holding the next three meetings there. The November dinner meeting featured a travelogue presentation by Bob and Susan Hood on a recent birding tour of Colorado. At our January meeting, club vice-president Matt Hafner introduced us to pelagic birding and the many species not seen regularly from dry land. At our March dinner meeting, a presentation by Dr. Dave Larkin took us to the Galapagos Islands, a naturalist's delight. At our third annual May pizza dinner meeting at Harford Glen, members and guests had a rare treat for our program. Sixteen ele-

mentary students from Prospect Mill Elementary School and their two teachers told us about their studies and activities centered on birdlife. It was great to see so many young students excited about the outdoors and its wildlife. Average meeting attendance continued on its increasing trend with around 60 attendees.

Raffle Chair Elaine Beery tirelessly solicited merchandise and gift certificates from local businesses to be used as raffle prizes at our general meetings. In exchange we gave these merchants free advertising in our bi-monthly newsletter, *Wrenderings*. Elaine's efforts established and bolstered our relationships with local business owners, and generated revenue to help supplement operating costs.

Field Trip Chair Tom Gibson and his hard-working committee did a stellar job planning and coordinating a total of 50 trips over the year. The slate included perennial favorites such as Susquehanna State Park, Swan Harbor, Conowingo Dam, Harford Glen, Bradenbaugh Flats, and Bombay Hook. The club continued to offer a wide variety of trips — e.g., trips paired with other hobbies such as wine tasting, kayaking and photography. A trip to Mariner Point Park billed as “wheelchair accessible” had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. The third annual “Epic Birding Challenge” was again a rousing success. In this light-hearted competition at Susquehanna State Park, teams attempt to find as many species as possible in one May morning, then exchange their fish tales over lunch at the Tidewater Grill in Havre de Grace. A “Breeders Cup Challenge” was directed to other MOS chapters to spend a day trying to locate all breeding species within their County's limits. A team of four from Harford found 105 species on a Saturday in June, including Harford's first summer record for Blue-headed Vireo.

The club hosted a display at the Earth Day celebration at Aberdeen Festival Park, handing out literature and newsletters, and chatting with passers-by about the hobby. In the spring, Education Chair Madeline Lovera spoke to students at local elementary schools on birds and birding; while Past President Dave Webb gave a presentation on the club at the Mariner Museum in Havre de Grace.

Les Eastman did an excellent job of publishing six more issues of the club's newsletter, *Wrenderings*. Monroe Harden kept busy as the compiler and author of the column *Harford Birdlife* documenting recent sightings throughout the county; Colleen Webster and Deborah Bowers contributed guest articles on book reviews and club member profiles, respectively.

The Harford Bird Club and its members continued to participate in several bird counts throughout the year including the US Geological Survey Breeding Bird Survey, Rock Run Christmas Bird Count, Mid-Winter Count, International Migratory Bird Day Count, and United States Nightjar Survey. These efforts are coordinated by Rick Cheicante.

Awards for 2011 were presented to Birder of the Year, Becky Gallo, recognizing her efforts in creating our Youth division. Rookie-of-the-Year went to Callum McClellan-O'Brien for his enthusiastic participation in our Youth club. Volunteer of the Year went to Phil Powers for his work at the Harford Glen banding station and for the many field trips he leads for the club. Lister of the Year went to Matt Hafner for seeing 224 species in Harford County during 2011. Bird of the Year was a tie between a Rufous Hummingbird, hosted by Chris and Rebecca Kellar of Darlington, and a LeConte's Sparrow which spent part of November and December at Swan Harbor Farm Park near Havre de Grace. Both birds were first records for the County.

The Executive Board met three times during the past year. The current officers will continue in office until July 2013 — President, Dr. Dennis Kirkwood; Vice-President, Matt Hafner; Recording Secretary, Dr. Jane Scocca; Corresponding Secretary, Madeline Lovera; Treasurer, Marjie Heagy; and State Directors, Randy Robertson and Tom Congersky.

Dennis Kirkwood, President

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The 40th year of the Howard County Bird Club will long be remembered for the arrivals of a Pink-footed Goose, a first for Maryland, and a Green Violetear, a first for the county. It also marked the change of location for our monthly meetings to Howard County's new Robinson Nature Center which opened in the fall of 2011. The Board of Directors formally adopted a club logo for the first time, largely adapted from previous artwork.

Organization: Voting membership dipped below 200, reducing our number of representatives on the state-level Board of Directors. Jeff Friedhoffer volunteered to step down from that position and we thank him for his service. Robin Todd joins the club Board of Directors as vice president this coming fall, joined by Eva Sunell as first-year chapter director. Jim Lubitz served as second-year director and his presence will be missed.

Meetings and Programs: Regular meetings were held on the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Average attendance for the nine meetings was about 50 persons. The high was 73 and the low was 35. Jane Geuder again did a wonderful job arranging a wide variety of speakers for our meetings, and attendance appears to be rising despite the loss of membership.

The club bookstore, operated by Ann Marie Raterman, was again a popular feature of the meetings. Sales, however, have consistently declined over the years as internet stores bring members the advantage low-cost, rapid-response, home delivery bookselling. After considerable discussion the Board of Directors decided to suspend acquisition of books and attempt to sell off as much of the inventory as possible. Kurt Schwarz was assigned to cull a set of volumes to be donated to the Robinson Nature Center to support the new research and educational initiatives at that facility.

The advance of technology has many advantages for us as well. Display set-up has been simplified with access to a ceiling-mounted projector in our meeting room, and a video screen at the back of the room has allowed us to host member-provided slide shows during the gathering period before the formal part of the meeting begins.

In March, the club held its annual Potluck dinner which was very successful with approximately 40 participants and many interesting stories and photos. By moving the event to the Robinson Nature Center we incurred less expense and were able to reserve the savings for our conservation work.

Field Trips and Annual Counts: There were a total of 38 field trips during the year not including counts and unadvertised responses to rare bird alerts — all trip reports are posted

on our website with species seen and the occasional photograph. We held day trips to Smith Island and Blackwater NWR. A “Little Big Day” was again held for those not up to the rigors of the “Big Day” itinerary. Several walks were in support of requests from the Robinson Nature Center staff and the WSSC.

The long record of chapter bird counts continued with the 18th annual Fall Count, the 27th annual Midwinter Count, and the annual May count (whose origins predate the club).

The annual compilation of seasonal ornithological records was again performed by Jo Solem. Joe Hanfman and Bonnie Ott organized the field trips and greatly assisted listers with communications about sightings and special opportunities. Two hundred thirty-two species were recorded in the county for the 2011 calendar year making that the fifth year in a row of 232 or more species.

The club has continued to support the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in its five-year Maryland Amphibian & Reptile Atlas (MARA) effort by hosting and maintaining web pages for Howard County. Club member Sue Muller is the county coordinator.

Fund-raising, Conservation, and Habitat Preservation: Our fund-raiser bird seed sale was held again in the early fall this year (2011) organized by Ward Ebert and Michael O’Sullivan. Unfortunately, greatly increased prices of seed discouraged many customers and only \$500 was netted from sale of seed directly. However, donations during the year added hundreds more to allow us to continue our support of wild birdlife. A donation of \$200 was made to support All Creatures Great and Small, a local wildlife rehabilitation facility in the county and a contribution of \$1000 was set aside to support bird-strike mitigation at the Cylburn Visitor Center in Baltimore. This support was in conjunction with the Lights Out Baltimore project under auspices of the Baltimore Bird Club which also committed funds. Later in the year it became apparent that this project could not be carried out successfully as originally conceived, so we have reserved the funds for distribution in the 2012–2013 year.

Once again, our very active Conservation Committee Chairman, Kurt Schwarz, wrote numerous letters supporting conservation issues all over the country to the appropriate authorities.

Youth Birding: We again held an art contest in the spring as an effort to expand the interest of youngsters in birdlife. Kate Tufts again organized the contest, engaging a professional artist, Holly Highfill, to judge the entries; each of two age categories had a first, second, and third place plus three honorable mentions. Backpacks will be presented to the winners and the winning artwork will be displayed at the Robinson Nature Center, Mount Pleasant Farm, and Glenwood Community Center over the coming months.

Publications and Web Site: The club newsletter, *The Goldfinch*, is published five times a year; field trips and programs are publicized on the website. Archives of all issues dating back to the first issue (December 1972) are available on line. An effort is underway to transition *The Goldfinch* to be delivered primarily in electronic form as a cost-saving measure with the additional benefits of added color, speed of delivery, and hyperlinks to related content.

The club website has become an important resource for information about birds, but it also hosts a great amount of information about butterflies, bees, dragonflies, fungi, reptiles, and amphibians. It has links to other birding organizations, information about county facilities, wildlife rehabilitators, and environmental organizations.

External Relations and Outreach: We again supported the local “Greenfest” which is held annually at Howard Community College in Columbia and we take the opportunity to display mounted birds, photos, and literature to attract interested citizens to learn about the club.

Many members have volunteered to help out at the new Robinson Nature Center. Over recent years the club has collected funds as memorial gifts on the passing of former members or relatives. A donation of \$300 was made to the Robinson Nature Center in memory of Adam Friedhoffer, Marjorie Mountjoy, and Donald Randle. Funds will be used to purchase plants attractive to birds as part of a garden display area.

Ward Ebert, President

MONTGOMERY BIRD CLUB

The BCC-IWLA (Izaak Walton League of America) located in Poolesville, MD invited our club to participate in their Earth Day celebration. Several of us stayed from 8:00–1:00 (until the rain forced us to leave) and introduced our club and the MOS to whoever stopped by our table. We had laminated posters of common birds, MOS brochures, our Montgomery County Site Guide, a large display board with information about our club website, and many field guides to tempt anyone who passed by. The club hopes to make this an annual outing.

Steven Pretl, President

PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

During the 2011–2012 season, the Patuxent Bird Club held ten monthly meetings. Eight of these were traditional programs with speakers talking about birds, bird identification and travels to distant lands.

One was the annual December holiday party, held jointly with BUMBA, the Bowie and Upper Marlboro Beekeeper’s association. The final program was the annual members’ nights where several members show slides and tell stories about the previous year’s highlights. These meetings have been drawing 30 to 60 attendees. We also sponsored more than 50 field trips, spring and fall migratory bird counts, the mid-winter count and the Bowie CBC. The field trips often draw 15 to 20 participants. Attendance at both meetings and field trips has been slowly growing over the last several years. Our next challenge is to convert this increased interest into a larger membership. We hold our monthly meetings and some of our field trips jointly with the Prince George’s County chapter of the National Audubon Society.

David Mozurkewich, President

TALBOT CHAPTER

During our 10-month birding calendar, we enjoyed 38 bird walks/trips including nine all-day and two all-weekend trips. After eight of the local walks we enjoyed a hosted breakfast at a member's home. Our walks/trips were attended by anywhere from 5 to 24 participants, mainly dependent on the weather. We also visited Poplar Island twice. We had six monthly meetings during the period September to November 2011 and February to April 2012. The topics discussed by our guest speakers included the population explosion of breeding Brown Pelicans in the Chesapeake Bay, status of the Delmarva Fox Squirrel, how White-nose Syndrome is devastating the bat population, mainly here in the east, forest management practices at Blackwater N.W.R., the Alaskan quest for the Bristle-thighed Curlew and "pOrnithology: The Birds and the Birds and the Bees."

We also had some rare birds make a visit to Talbot County. From late October 2011 to late December 2011 a Calliope Hummingbird was a regular visitor to the garden (loved the Mexican Bush Sage) of one of our Easton members. The owners of the property were extremely gracious, and patient with the several hundred visitors from throughout the state and from surrounding states to view the rarity. The Calliope is normally found only in the western part of our nation. From February 15 to March 18 a Virginia's Warbler decided to hang around the grounds of Pickering Creek Audubon Center, and again scores of birders from near and far came to Talbot County to see this species of the west. Both species were photographed and well documented even though the warbler was less than cooperative.

For each of the above visits, officers of the Talbot Bird Club and other members provided substantial assistance to the hosts in publicizing the visits and helping to establish and enforce guidelines for visitors that would ensure good viewing by the visitors without destroying the habitats being used by these birds.

For years we have birded Tilghman Island in the late summer to fall as the "go-to" location in the county for fall migration because of the funneling effect of the narrowing land mass. The region has now become recognized as both a spring and fall migrant trap. Much of our new appreciation for the area has been stimulated by the fact that some nearby property owned by one of our members has become openly available to our club members. The family even maintains trails throughout the property. We also visited several other private estates and are grateful to all the landowners who grant our club permission to bird and enjoy all that nature has to offer on their properties. Come spend a few hours with friends in the search for who-knows-what gems we might find during the next season of birding.

Les Roshund and Terry Allen

WASHINGTON COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The Washington County Bird Club held regular monthly meetings at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. The wonderful list of topics included: "A Hawk Migration Workshop" with Dave Weesner; the film *The Incredible Journey of the Butterfly*; "The History of Ornithology" by Walter Ellison; the film *A Murder of Crows*; "Birding in Senegal" by Kate Weatherby; "Tro-gons and Mot-Mots" by Kurt Schwarz; and "Bluebirds" with Kathy Kremnitzer. The May meeting is the popular and entertaining Member's Night, which includes short presentations

about whatever has piqued our individual curiosities during the year. The October and January meetings are preceded by lovely potluck meals. Summer picnics are held in June and August.

Twelve field trips carried our members near and far. Popular local destinations continued to be Washington Monument and Fort Frederick State Parks, Sideling Hill, Indian Springs WMA, and Antietam and Catoctin National Parks. The annual trip to Lambs Knoll to observe Saw-whet Owl banding by Steve Huy is always a rewarding experience for those willing to brave the late hours and chilly temperatures. Full day and overnight trips included Blandy Experimental Farm, Sky Meadows SP, Canaan Valley NWR, and the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory at Dolly Sods. In addition, four club members spent time in Botswana working on their international bird lists.

Members participated in the MOS Fall Count, the Christmas Count, and the May Count. To help celebrate International Migratory Bird Day, WCBC co-led a walk on the Antietam Battlefield with the local Audubon Society. The data collected became part of a bird survey of National Battlefield sites that include a portion of Christmas Count circles. This jointly sponsored walk was very well attended and we look forward to similar collaborative efforts.

We are fortunate to have a premier hawk-watching site at the Washington Monument SP near Boonsboro. Information is collected daily during spring and fall migration and made available to the public by the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Washington County Bird Club began sponsoring the Washington Monument Hawk Count page in 2011 and plans to continue doing so.

A slate of officers was elected for a two-year term at the May membership meeting. We have been using a system of rotating Presidents with each person covering a three-month slot. This has been working well enough for us, but one, full-time President would be the optimum situation. Membership has been holding steady. We are grateful to our club members who engage in community outreach in order to educate the general public about birds and their conservation, as well as to attract new members of all ages.

Anna M. Hutzell, Corresponding Secretary

No report: Caroline Chapter, Kent Chapter, Tri-County Chapter



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CONTENTS, MARCH 2013

Maryland's 2012–13 Christmas Bird Counts.....	<i>Chandler S. Robbins</i>	3
Christmas Count Participants, 2012–13.....		5
Table 1: Inland Christmas Counts, 2012–13.....		10
Table 2: Tidewater Christmas Counts, 2012–13.....		18
Annual Report of the President.....	<i>Mark Johnson</i>	28
Annual Reports of Committees.....	<i>Committee Chairs</i>	28
Annual Reports of Chapters.....	<i>Chapter Presidents</i>	35